

Developmental Disabilities Council  
Reading Cover Page

Date: September 16, 2004

Meeting: Self-Determination & Employment

Reading Number: 04-SD-13

**Issue:** Funding Request

Included in the Reading: Letter from Washington Coalition of Citizens with DisAbilities

Background/Summary:

The Washington Coalition of Citizens with DisAbilities and Region 4 Developmental Disabilities is requesting start-up funding for a youth peer group.

Action: Discussion & Vote

Focus Question(s): Is this something the Council should fund? Do you want to recommend the Council fund this project out of General Council funds?

If there are any questions, please contact Clare Billings at 1-800-634-4473,  
[clareb@cted.wa.gov](mailto:clareb@cted.wa.gov)

**Washington Coalition  
of Citizens with disAbilities**

Good Shepherd Center  
4649 Sunnyside Avenue N, Suite 100  
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*WCCD promotes equality and choice of people with disabilities  
through advocacy, collaboration, and programs.*

August 4, 2004

Edward Holen  
Developmental Disabilities Council  
PO Box 48314, MS: 8314  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. Holen:


Youth with disabilities transitioning out of high school are facing a critical turning point in their life. That is why the Washington Coalition of Citizens with disAbilities (WCCD) and the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) are working to develop a peer group for high school students with disabilities in King County. This would allow the students to prepare for life after graduation by talking with other students with disabilities and working together to learn independent living skills. WCCD and DDD would love to have the support of the Developmental Disabilities Council in this effort.

The group would provide students opportunities to support each other in gaining skills and experiences to assist them in living independently in the community. Topics would include transition planning, college and work opportunities, self-advocacy, adaptive technology, and more. The group would combine dialogue with real world experiences and field trips in which students could practice the skills being discussed (e.g. using the bus, going to Olympia for an advocacy day, etc). The group would meet once a month beginning in the Fall of 2004. Our hope for this peer group is that it will provide youth with an opportunity to talk about their hopes and goals and the issues going on in their lives with other students in similar situations. They will be able to share ideas and build a network for themselves with other youth in the community.

We are seeking funds to assist in the start-up of the group and with field trips. We are hoping that your council could contribute \$5,000 to help us support youth in transitioning to an integrated life in the community. We appreciate all that your council does for the local disability community and look forward to your response! Thank you!

Sincerely,

  
Jeff Grace  
Community Services Coordinator  
DSHS Developmental Disabilities Division

  
Gladys Springborn-Brannigan  
Assistant Director  
WA Coalition of Citizens with disAbilities